

National Journal:

Will you extend into the 111th Congress the current House GOP moratorium on earmarks? Related to that, if you win the majority, will you seek any change to the Appropriations Committee's professional staff or other reforms to signal that, in your words, "business as usual" is over when it comes to discretionary spending?

Minority Leader BOEHNER:

Look, I've always had a no earmarks policy. I helped get the conference into a place where we have a current moratorium. And I think it's perfectly clear that going back to business as usual is not an option. That's the case with earmarking specifically, and with spending in general. Change is never easy, but change is necessary. It's what the American people are demanding of us.

National Journal:

You've said you are open to having spending-cut legislation come to the House floor each week or, at a minimum, regularly. How do you intend for this to work?

Minority Leader BOEHNER:

Well, I think a model for that particular proposal may be the YouCut project that ERIC and the other members of our economic recovery solutions group have been doing all year. They've got a ton of specific cuts, chosen by the American people in an online poll. I also said in my speech in September at AEI that I think we need to look at breaking up all these massive spending bills—break them into smaller bills that are more conducive to scrutiny and debate. We said in the pledge that we need to set up a process that makes it easier to cut spending. In my mind that means, among other things, if a Member has an amendment that would cut spending, it should get a vote. Period.

□ 2150

Skippping down.

National Journal:

How much longer do you envision staying in Congress? And, related to that, did you learn anything valuable from the speakership of NANCY PELOSI?

Minority Leader BOEHNER:

Hell, I've already stayed here a lot longer than I ever thought I would. We'll see. I think the current majority has reinforced what I already knew. You can't run this place, at least not well, by shutting out the American people, shutting out the other party, and even shutting out your own members. You can twist arms and crack heads and cut deals for a while, but it just won't work in the long term.

Madam Speaker, with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO UNITED STATES-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as amended, and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, of the following individual on the part of the House to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2014:

Mr. Larry Wortzel, Williamsburg, Virginia.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2220

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah) at 10 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4310, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-707) on the resolution (H. Res. 840) providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4310) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.J. RES. 66, APPROVING RENEWAL OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS AGAINST BURMA, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6684, SPENDING REDUCTION ACT OF 2012

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-708) on the resolution (H. Res. 841) providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 66) approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6684) to provide for spending reduction, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. MICA (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today after 5 p.m. on account of attending a funeral.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title,

which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3783. An act to provide for a comprehensive strategy to counter Iran's growing hostile presence and activity in the Western Hemisphere, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 285. An act for the relief of Sopuruchi Chukwueke.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on December 19, 2012, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 6116. To amend the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands to provide for direct review by the United States Supreme Court of decisions of the Virgin Islands Supreme Court, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6223. To amend section 1059(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 to clarify that a period of employment abroad by the Chief of Mission or United States Armed Forces as a translator, interpreter, or in a security-related position in an executive or managerial capacity is to be counted as a period of residence and physical presence in the United States for purposes of qualifying for naturalization, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), under its previous order and pursuant to House Resolution 839, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, December 20, 2012, at noon, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Honorable Daniel K. Inouye.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8836. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Creation of a Low Power Radio Service; Amendment of Service and Eligibility Rules for FM Broadcast Translator Stations [MB Docket No.: 99-25; MB Docket No. 07-172. RM 11338] received December 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8837. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-160, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8838. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12-147, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.